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EXCISE

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CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The People's Republic of China has played a low-key, supportive role on Central American and Caribbean issues.

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TALKING POINTS

--CUBA, WITH SOVIET BACKING, IS PROMOTING SUBVERSION THROUGHOUT THE CARIBBEAN BASIN AND ENGAGING IN A FULL-SCALE DIPLOMATIC AND PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE TO SUPPORT ITS GOALS.

-- PRC CONDEMNATION OF SOVIET AND CUBAN INTERVENTION IN EL SALVADOR HAS HELPED ALERT THE WORLD TO SOVIET USE OF ITS CUBAN PROXY TO PROMOTE ITS EXPANSION IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL REVOLUTION.

-- THE PRC CAN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BY SUPPORTING LDC MODERATES AND OPPOSING CUBAN ACTIONS DESIGNED TO ADVANCE SOVIET AND CUBAN GOALS IN CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

-- THE PRC CAN ALSO HELP EXPOSE CUBAN AND SOVIET EXPANSIONISM IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN TO LATIN AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN AUDIENCES.

-- U.S. ACTIONS ON EL SALVADOR ARE DESIGNED TO PREVENT THE CUBANS FROM OBTAINING ANOTHER BASE IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

-- OFTEN OVERLOOKED IS THE FACT THAT THE U.S. IS PROVIDING THREE TIMES AS MUCH ECONOMIC AS MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EL SALVADOR. IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE VULNERABILITIES OF THE CARIBBEAN BASIN STATES, THE U.S. IS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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CONSULTING WITH OTHERS TO DEVELOP A MECHANISM TO ADDRESS
THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.

-- OUR EFFORTS IN THE CARIBBEAN ARE DESIGNED TO PREVENT
CUBA FROM MAKING FURTHER INROADS AND TO PENALIZE GRENADA
FOR ITS CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH CUBA.

-- IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE U.S. AND THE PRC TO
EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON CUBAN AND SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE
CARIBBEAN BASIN.

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